



Pirates are off the planet



IT'S just amazing what some people will do for a drink.

In *Ice Pirates*, a new release from MGM/UA Home Video, Robert Urich and Mary Crosby (right) travel to the ends of the universe and beyond to quench their thirst.

If that sounds a bit strange — wait until you see the movie!

It's a wacky, off-the-wall space adventure, something like a cross between *Star Wars*, a pirate movie and a refrigerator.

The plot goes something like this: The evil Templar Empire has complete control over the galaxy's last source of fresh water. The Templars ship the water to its far-flung colonies in frozen blocks with a fleet of refrigerated spaceships.

The one thaw point in their chilling plan is the existence of a band of buccaneers, based on a bandit moon, who'll stop at nothing to get a drink — the *Ice Pirates*.

Led by Jason (Robert Urich), they hijack the water supplies and sell them on the black market.

On one such mission he meets beautiful Princess Karina (Mary Crosby)

who is desperate to find her missing father, the great space explorer Count Vasco.

Trouble is, she's being held captive by the Supreme Commander (John Carradine) who hopes she will lead him to the elusive Seventh World, which her father is believed to have discovered.

The action moves through a number of weird worlds, populated by bizarre aliens and wacky robot warriors.

It's a lot of fun and exceptionally well made.

The film is one of Robert Urich's first excursions on the silver screen — the bulk of his previous work had been on television, most notably as Dan Tanna in *Vegas*.

Mary Crosby, on the other hand, has plenty of experience in film and television, achieving notoriety when she won the role of the girl who shot JR — Kristan Shepherd — in *Dallas*.

with Allan Webster

Reviews

RHINESTONE (CBS-Fox Video)

THE teaming of country music superstar Dolly Parton with Rocky-Rambo tough-guy Sylvester Stallone was, on the surface, an unlikely basis for a movie, particularly when you consider that Parton is not an actress of any great depth and Stallone is better suited to action and adventure than to musical comedy. But somehow they manage to make it work. Dolly plays the country singing star who, for a bet, picks up the most unlikely person possible (Stallone, a rough and tumble cab driver) and attempts to turn him into a credible country singer. She succeeds, and so does the film in its own country cornball way.

REILLY — ACE OF SPIES (Thorn-EMI)

NEW Zealand-born actor Sam Neill was rightfully acclaimed for his work in this drama of espionage and deception. He plays the title character — a ruthless, manipulative British operative who, by virtue of his upbringing, has little time for the gentlemanly conventions observed by others who ply the spy trade. So much so that, despite the fact he obtains excellent results on his first assignment into Russia, he is ostracised by his superiors for his apparently callous and brutal methods. Intertwined with the story of his career is that of his complex private life. In fact, he quickly and painfully discovers that the two cannot be separated when, because of his scheming, his best (female) friend is murdered. Well worth watching.

MY FIRST WIFE (Palace Academy)

THREE Australian Film Institute awards (for John Hargreaves — best actor, Paul Cox — best director, and best original screenplay) give a fair indication of just how good *My First Wife* really is. It's the unsettlingly honest account of a crumbling marriage; the anger, frustration, pain, confusion and the whole damn thing. Hargreaves and Hughes are simply superb as they work their way through the turmoil. Don't miss it.